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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/554,095	10/21/2005	Masaaki Takabe	09812.0117	6585
22852 7590 08/21/2007 FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW, GARRETT & DUNNER LLP 901 NEW YORK AVENUE, NW WASHINGTON, DC 20001-4413			EXAMINER ZHR, ASHRAF A	
			ART UNIT 2109	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 08/21/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/554,095

Applicant(s)

TAKABE ET AL.

Examiner

Ashraf Zahr

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 October 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-6 and 8-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-6 and 8-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 October 2005 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3/20/2006, 10/21/2005.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Examiner is examining attached replacement sheets containing the translation of the Article 19 Amendments. Claims 1, 3-6, 8-10 are pending in this application. Claims 2 and 7 were cancelled. Claim 1 and 5 are Independent Claims.

2. The information disclosure statement (IDS) statements dated 03/20/2006 and 10/21/2005 have been received. The submission is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the examiner is considering the information disclosure statement.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1, 3-6, 8-10 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sciammrella et al., US 2002/0033848 (Hereinafter, Sciammrella) in view of Parker et al., US 6,996,782 (Hereinafter Parker).

Regarding Claim 1, Sciammrella discloses “a display method of displaying a plurality of images in a reduced size on a screen”. Specifically discloses a method of displaying thumbnails on a screen” (Sciammrella, ¶0047).

Sciammrella also discloses, “storing said plurality of images to each of which a related time is added”. Specifically, Sciammrella discloses using time to determine the ordering of the thumbnails (Sciammrella, ¶0130).

Sciammrella also discloses “disposing each image in the vicinity of a position on said time axis corresponding to the time added to each image”. Specifically, Sciammrella discloses that when time is chosen as the order, the sequence or pattern of how thumbnails are displayed can be varied based on how close together the data objects are in time (Sciammrella, ¶0130).

Sciammrella also discloses “displaying each image in order and at intervals corresponding to the time”. Specifically, Sciammrella discloses that thumbnails could be grouped together and separated from each other depending on how close in time the thumbnails are (Sciammrella, ¶0131).

Sciammrella also discloses “displaying only part not overlapped of a display area of each image, when each image disposed in the vicinity of said time axis overlaps with a display area of another image having adjacent time on said time axis”. Specifically the layout interface in Sciammrella can layout out the thumbnails in this the manner described by the applicant (Sciammrella, Fig 1).

Sciammrella does disclose, “establishing”...“an axis on the screen” (Sciammrella, Fig 1). However, Sciammrella does not specifically disclose, “establishing a time axis on the screen”. Parker remedies this with a disclosure

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of a time axis on the screen (Parker, Fig 2). It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine Parker and Sciammrella to add a time axis to the thumbnails displayed in Sciammrella. The motivation for combining the two references is to be able to identify a number of visual digital objects according to predetermined tie periods and providing thumbnail representations thereof (Parker, col 8, ln 6-9).

Regarding Claim 3, Sciammrella also discloses "a display method according to claim 1, wherein each image displayed along said time axis is displayed as an oblique image having a predetermined angle to the screen". Specifically the layout interface in Sciammrella can layout out the thumbnails in this the manner described by the applicant (Sciammrella, Fig 1).

Regarding Claim 4, Sciammrella also discloses "a display method according to claim 1, wherein intervals between a plurality of disposed images are made variable by changing a scale of said time axis based on a predetermined operation". Specifically, the space between two data objects can be represented by varying the space between two thumbnails (Sciammrella, ¶0130).

Regarding Claim 5, Sciammrella also discloses "a display method according to claim 1, wherein the time added to each image is the date...when the image is picked up". Specifically, Sciammrella discloses an information tab

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that includes information such as date, file name, and file type (Sciammrella, ¶0051).

Sciammrella does not specifically disclose adding the time to each image. However, it would be an obvious variation to add the time the image is picked up. The motivation for adding the time is that time is a subdivision of the date and incorporating the time is the only to make the ordering of the thumbnails in Sciammrella more precise. Furthermore adding the time would be the only way for a person to determine the time that images were picked up on a certain day.

Regarding Claims 6, 8-10, these claims are substantially similar to claims 1 and 3-5. The applicant is claiming the means for the method in claims 1 and 3-5. Therefore, these claims are rejected based upon the same reasoning used to reject claims 1 and 3-5.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Hori et al., US 6,912,327: Imagine Information Describing Method,
Video Retrieval Method, Video Reproducing Method, and Video
Reproducing Apparatus

Obrador, US 7,149,755: Presenting a Collection of Media Objects

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Hyashi et al., US 7,065,710: Apparatus and Method For
Processing Information and Program and Medium Used Therefore

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ashraf Zahr whose telephone number is (571) 274-1973. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Thurs., 7:30 am - 5 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Frantz Coby can be reached on (571) 272-4017. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


FRANTZ COBY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER